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FEBRUARY 08, 2016

VOL 7, ISSUE 06, NU 10

NATION'S FIRST
FINANCIAL NEWSPAPER



Nation rejoices The Gyalsey's Birth

The Birth of The Gyalsey

An emanation of our collective good karma

The whole nation is enraptured in a state of euphoria. The birth of The Gyalsey is a happy occasion to Their Majesties and the people of Bhutan. And the nation is celebrating the arrival of the newborn prince with expressions of profound joy and prayers.

The birth of the 'Son of Palden Drukpa' is the culmination of the collective good karma of people of Bhutan and fruition of the blessings bequeath upon us by the Triple Gem. The birth of the Royal Child therefore signifies an auspicious moment in the life of our Nation.

The monarchs of Wangchuck Dynasty have shaped the course of our history, and the birth of a future King, is a deeply sacred moment. It heralds the promises of the future and the continuity of the magnanimity and greatness of the Wangchuck Dynasty.

As the nation rejoices the Birth of The Gyalsey, it is an appropriate time for every Bhutanese to reflect upon the great, benevolent deeds of the Wangchuck Kings and renew our loyalty and devotion to the Tsa Wa Sum.

Bhutan's monarchy has been the nucleus of our nation's strength and sovereignty. The great Kings of past and present and citizens of the country have always shared a unique bond founded on the values of love, loyalty, integrity and service to each other. Kingship and citizenship are vital aspects of our unique system and culture.

As the nation rejoices the Birth of The Gyalsey, it is an appropriate time for every Bhutanese to reflect upon the great, benevolent deeds of the Wangchuck Kings and renew our loyalty and devotion to the Tsa Wa Sum.

While announcing the arrival of the newborn Prince on 11 November 2015, His Majesty clearly highlighted that The Gyalsey is the Son of the Nation. True to the wise words of The King, every Bhutanese, as custodians of our country's rich tradition and culture and unique values, must now shoulder the collective responsibility by striving hard to offer nothing less than the best for the upbringing of The Gyalsey.

The nation is truly blessed with birth of the Prince of Destiny, born on an auspicious time, which marks 400 years of Zhabdrung's arrival to Bhutan and Guru Padsambhava's birth year. In addition, as we prepare to celebrate and welcome the Traditional New Year (Losar), the Birth of The Gyalsey has come as the most precious, invaluable gift to the nation and the people. Certainly, Bhutanese people could not have asked for more.



His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen during the Royal Wedding ceremony

Son of Palden Drukpa is born

On the morning of 6 February 2016, the nation woke up to the extraordinary news of the Royal Birth of His Royal Highness The Gyalsey.

The first Royal Child of His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Her Majesty Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema was born on the night of 5 February 2016.

The Prince was delivered safely at the Lingkana Palace in Thimphu.

His Majesty The King was at Her Majesty's side during the time of the delivery. Following the Royal Birth, the newly born Prince was first presented to His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo.

Their Majesties and members of the Royal family are filled with profound joy on the birth of His Royal Highness.

Their Majesties expressed appreciation to the Bhutanese medical team for their service and also expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Zhung Dratshang, Rabdeys, and other religious organizations who performed prayer ceremonies in all the Dzongs and Lhakhangs across the country for the wellbeing of His Royal Highness, Their Majesties, and the people of Bhutan.

Their Majesties and members of the Royal family are filled with profound joy on the birth of His Royal Highness.

With the blessings of the Guardian Deities of Bhutan and Protectors of the Dharma, and the prayers of the Bhutanese people, Her Majesty and His Royal Highness The Gyalsey are both in perfect health. All sacred Bhutanese traditions were observed for the auspicious occasion, with His Holiness the Je Khenpo presiding over the religious ceremonies.

Following the Birth of The Gyalsey, His Majesty The King offered prayers at the Tashichhodzong, Dechenphu Lhakhang, Pangrizampa Lhakhang, and the Gesar Lhakang. Hundreds of well-wishers gathered at these nyes (sacred sites) and other Dzongs and Lhakhangs across the country to offer prayers of gratitude on the joyous occasion of the Royal Birth. People







His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen have always been the epitome of love and compassion. Their Majesties have found much joy in spending time with children in every ocassion.

Celebrating the Birth of The Gyalsey









offered *Karmi Kom* (butter lamps), hoisted Prayer Flags at all sacred sites. The Bhutanese diaspora overseas has also been offering prayers and celebrating the auspicious occasion.

Sharing the joy of the Bhutanese people, His Holiness the Je Khenpo explained the extraordinary *tendrel* under which His Royal Highness The Gyalsey was born. His Holiness the Je Khenpo is presiding over sacred ceremonies in Tashichhodzong, Thimphu, and *kurims* (religious ceremonies) are being conducted by the Zhung Dratshang (Central Monk Body) and clergy in all the Dzongs and important lhakhangs across the country.

The historic Drukgyel Dzong in Paro will be restored to its former glory to commemorate the celebrations. The *Salhang* ceremony for the dzong was conducted on 6 February.

Kutens (sacred objects) are being repaired, restored and gilded in the Tashichhodzong and Punakha Dzong, to mark the birth of the Gyalsey.

A sapling of the Bodhi tree under which the Buddha attained enlightenment was planted at Takila in Lhuentshe.

Besides this, 108 trees of sacred significance were planted in Thimphu, Punakha, Tsirang, Dagana, and Sarpang to mark the Royal Birth. These included Oak, Cypress, Rosary Tree, Bodhi tree, and white Sandalwood.

Sachu Bumter (blessed vessels) were installed by the Jigten Wangchuk Tshogpa at the sources of five water bodies in Punakha, to bless the waters that course through the country.

Two chortens will be built in Thrumsengla and Pelela to mark the occasion. The *salhang tendrel* for these chortens were conducted on 6 February.

Priests from the Hindu community in the Southern dzongkhags are offering prayers and havaan (fire offerings) at the Samtse Mandir. The ceremony includes recitations of the Veda, Vagawat Puran, Shiva Puran, Devi Vagawat, Rudri and Chandi.

The Samtse Shivalaya Mandir, which was built upon the Royal Command of His Majesty The King as a gift to the Hindu Community in Bhutan to mark the Royal Wedding, was consecrated on 6 February coinciding with the Royal Birth.

Their Majesties also granted *soelra* to all children born in the country on the auspicious day of the Royal Birth.

His Majesty Commanded that the government should not spend valuable resources on grand celebrations but should commemorate the Royal Birth with initiatives that will have long-term benefits for the country and people. Their Majesties expressed their wish that the most important focus should be the *tendrel* of the Royal Birth.

Lungten Gi Gyalsey

Sonam Jatso

We are a blessed nation. We are a blessed people. And the auspicious birth of our Gyalsey ensures the continued blessings of Wangchuck *Juedzin*.

This is the moment we have all been waiting for. It is a moment of immense joy and hope. It is an assurance that our children will enjoy much greater peace, progress and prosperity in their time. Our Gyalsey comes from the eternal love and affection of our Druk Gyalpo and Gyaltsuen, and the heartfelt prayers and aspirations of the entire nation. It is the coming together of our past, present and the future. It is the coming together of enlightened wisdom and selfless compassion of Wangchuck *Juedzin*.

We may never be a rich nation in terms of economic wealth. We may never be a powerful nation in terms of military strength. And we may never be an advanced nation in terms of technological innovation and science. But we all know that there is something special about this small Himalayan Kingdom, our beloved nation — something that cannot be described in words. Guru Rinpoche, Zhabdrung Rinpoche, Kuenkhen Longchen Rabjam, Tertoen Pemalingpa, Chogyal Drukpa Kunleg, Juetsen Milarepa, Khandro Machig Labdron, and countless others have blessed Bhutan as a Beyul. Every place is a sacred site, every river, mountain, and cliff an abode of gods and goddesses. Dzongs, temples, monasteries, Choedeys, Gomdeys, Dratsangs, Shedras, Chortens, prayer wheels and prayer flags are everywhere. Every day breaks with chanting of prayers and burning of incense by compassionate lamas, monks, nuns, gomchens and tsampas. The lifelong goal of every Bhutanese is to become a better human being and earn a better rebirth in the endless cycle of birth and rebirth. And taking care of our parents during their time of need and old age is our most important priority.

Above all else, we are a nation blessed with extraordinary Kings of Wangchuck *Juedzin*. Their selfless deeds and enlightened wisdom defy imagination. The story of Bhutan's survival as an independent nation, its unwavering commitment to protection of environment and culture, the unique introduction of its democracy and its vision of Gross National Happiness continues to inspire people from all across the globe.

The benevolent deeds of our Kings is matched by our people's deepest love and respect for our monarchs. It is inspiring to see our people come together from all across the country to pay tribute and celebrate Their Majesties inspiring lives and selfless deeds. In recent years, beside the National Day and other national events, we celebrated the Coronation, the Royal Wedding, and Drukgyal Zhipa's 60th Birth Anniversary. And now, once again, the birth of our Gyalsey has brought us together. We celebrate with immense joy and gratitude, and deep love and respect for our precious Wangchuck *Juedzin*. This is who we are as a nation and a people. And we are blessed with endless opportunities for happiness and gratitude, beyond what material wealth and military power can ever offer.

The writer is the Secretary General of People's Democratic Party

An Occasion of Auspice

Namkhai Norbu

In so many beautiful ways, 5 February 2016 will be remembered for always. It's indubitably the dawn of another historic moment in Bhutan. The sense of happiness and enthusiasm reverberating in the minds of every Bhutanese is palpable and vivid as the whole nation welcomes the special one – His Royal Highness The Gyalsey - last week.

Indeed, it's a special day. A special occasion to be happy and ecstatic, and with special reasons too, obviously.

Firstly, the birth of HRH The Gyalsey represents the pivotal continuity of the sacred and benevolent institution of monarchy in the country - the symbol of Bhutan's identity and nationhood.

In more than 108 years of monarchy in the country, our successive Druk Gyalpos have secured our sovereignty and nationhood, besides bringing us together and paving the path towards happiness, prosperity and wellbeing. We have been blessed under the reign of our successive Druk Gyalpos. The birth of the Royal Prince, therefore, further ensures the continuity of these blessings.

Undoubtedly, Bhutan and its people have been blessed under the country's successive Druk Gyalpos, whose priority and prerogative have always been the people, their welfare and wellbeing.

As an epitome of values such as love, kindness, selflessness and compassion, our Kings have tirelessly been in the service of their people and country, all round the clock. Our Kings have always been there for the people, during good and bad times, happy and sad moments; personally lifting those in grief, despair and distress.

Therefore, most importantly, it's this assurance that we can repose our faith and trust on to our Monarchs in times of adversity. It's the solace that the hope and future of Bhutan and all Bhutanese are secure, and that we can repose all of our hopes, dreams and aspirations on our Monarchs till perpetuity that makes the Royal Birth even more significant.

Making the birth of the Royal Prince exceptional is also the auspiciousness of the time it is happening at. The special Royal Birth is happening at the most significant time or the year when the country marks the birth of Guru Padmasambhava and 400th anniversary of the arrival of Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel to Bhutan. The Royal Birth is, therefore, an indication that we are blessed with good Tendrel; and so the obvious reason to rejoice and celebrate this auspicious phenomenon.

HRH The Gyalsey's birth has also taken place at a special time when for the first time in history, Bhutan and all Bhutanese have been blessed for the first time to witness the three great Kings together – the great Fourth King, His Majesty The King, and the next in the line of succession to the Golden Throne. This is unquestionably the rarest of the rarest moment for Bhutan and all Bhutanese.

A little more than four years back, His Majesty The King had fulfilled the wish of the nation and its people when His Majesty married Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen. The sacred matrimonial in 13 October 2011 saw the union of two greatest souls. The auspicious Royal Birth, therefore, is a long-awaited moment by Bhutan and all Bhutanese. The prayers of the nation have been answered. The wishes of the people have been fulfilled. But most importantly, the Royal Birth is the materialization of a miracle today that makes the nation and all Bhutanese complete.

The writer is the Executive Director of Guides Association of Bhutan

Nation celebrates the birth of The Gyalsey

Peky Samal

Sacred kurims were held, the groundbreaking ceremony for the Drugyal Dzong was performed and Epidural Labour Analgesia was launched in Thimphu Hospital to mark The Royal Birth





When the nation of Druk Yul woke up from a night of peaceful slumber on Saturday, the mood was euphoric as the day before on 5 February 2016, the first Royal Child of His Majesy King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema was born.

As immediate sharing of tweets and posts of excitement and joy on social media followed, a sense of cheeriness, optimism and celebration filled the air while people smiled, laughed and talked excitedly about the birth of the Prince of Bhutan - the newest member of the Royal Family.

A press release from the Royal Office for Media said that His Royal Highness was delivered safely at the Lingkana Palace in Thimphu with the blessings of the Guardian Deities of Bhutan and Protectors of the Dharma, and the prayers of the Bhutanese people.

All sacred Bhutanese traditions were observed for the auspicious occasion, with His Holiness the Je Khenpo presiding over the religious ceremonies.

News of The Gyalsey's birth reached Punakha by 5am on 6 February while the monks had already started the Galwang Drupchen at the Punakha Dzong at 9pm on 5 February. The monks performed another *kurim*, a three-day long *Sungchoen* for the wellbeing of The Gyalsey, His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen.

The Dorji Lopon presided over 140 monks as the Dratshang also started the Goenpoi Wangchen in the Punakha Dzong. By dawn, the

Celebrating the Birth of The Gyalsey

Zhabdrung Phuensum Tshogpa Thongdrel was also unfurled.

Sacred *kurims* like these were held nationwide including Gasa, Wangduephodrang, Haa, Trashigang, Lhuentse, and Mongar. In the south, Samdrup Jongkhar Dratshang along with dzongkhag officials offered 1,000 butter lamps with *Mari Moenlam* for Their Majesties' wellbeing.

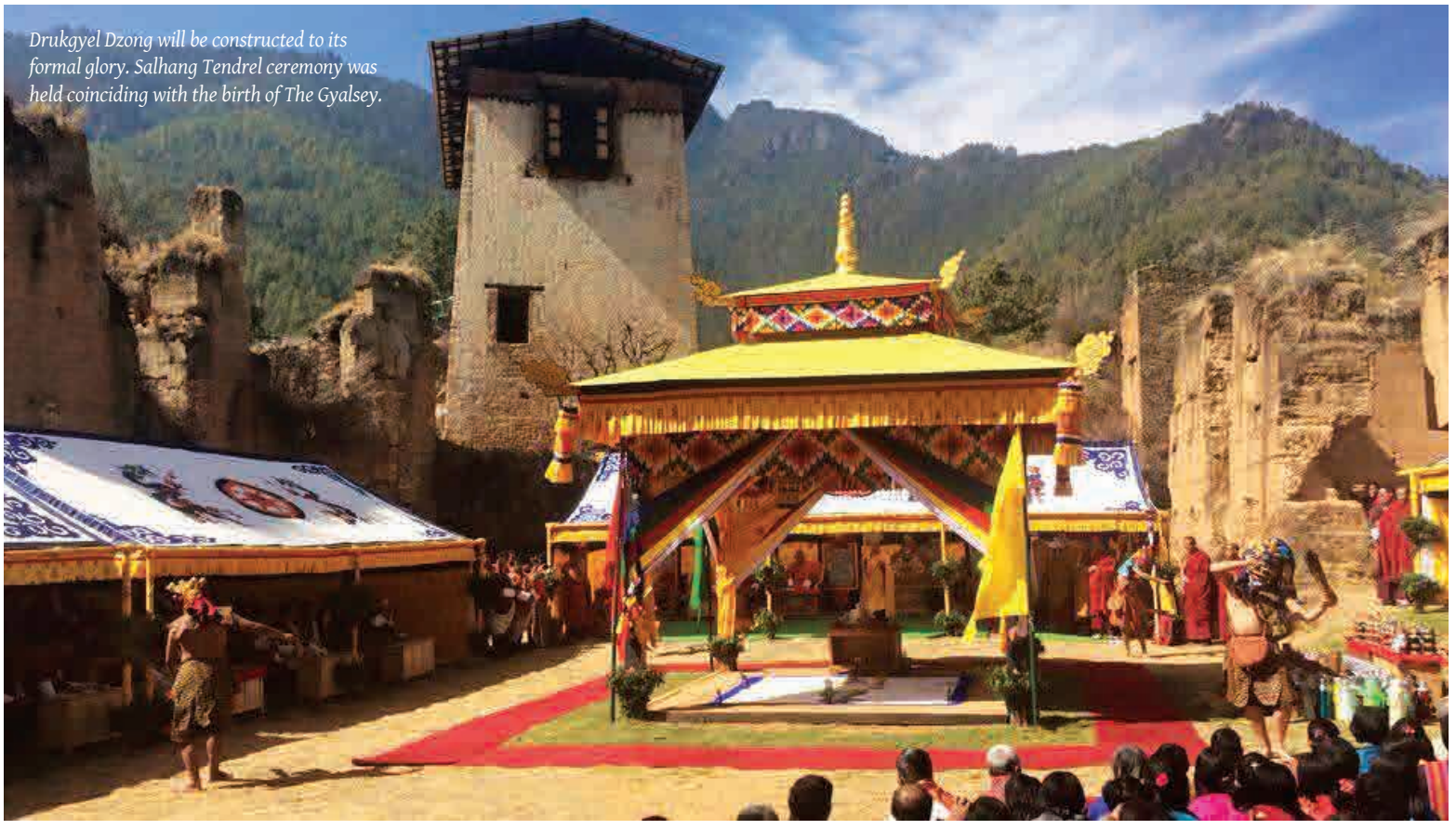
The Shivlaya Mandhir in Samtse was also consecrated by government officials and the town residents. As part of the celebrations to mark the Birth of The Gyalsey, the ground breaking ceremony for the restoration of Drugyal Dzong in Paro was held yesterday.

Currently, the fortress built in the 17h century during the time of Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel, remains in ruins. Drugyal Dzong – The Dzong of Victory - was built at a time when Bhutan-Tibet rivalry had peaked. Bhutanese forces won two battles against the Tibetan army at the Drugyal Dzong. To celebrate the country's victory, the Drugyal Dzong was built, which was unforuntaely lost to a fire in 1951.

Restoration works are scheduled to start this year, coinciding with the Birth of the Royal Prince, the Birth Year of Guru Rinpoche and the arrival of Zhabdrung to Bhutan. Though the exact date of starting the works is yet to be determined, it will be completed in two years.

In a first of its sort, the health ministry launched Epidural Labour Analgesia Services, a medical technique employed for providing pain relief during labor, to mark the birth of the Prince of Bhutan and as a gift from Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen to the mothers of Bhutan.

Currently, the service is available only at the Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral hospital in Thimphu but there are plans to introduce the treatment in Mongar and Gelephu as well. The Birthing Centre, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and Community Health Department at the Thimphu Hospital were also renamed as Gyaltseun Jetsun Pema Birthing Centre, Gyaltseun Jetsun Pema Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and Gyaltseun Jetsun Pema Mother and Child Clinic respectively.



Drukgyel Dzong will be constructed to its formal glory. Salhang Tendrel ceremony was held coinciding with the birth of The Gyalsey.



The Shivlaya Mandhir in Samtse was also consecrated to mark the Birth of The Gyalsey



HRH The Gyalsey is born

Druk-Yuel Celebrates



We the management and staff of

Tashi Commercial Corporation

would like to extend our heartiest congratulations to
His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen on
the birth of the Prince of Bhutan while praying that the Prince may
be a source of joy, laughter and wisdom borne out of
new-found parenthood to Their Majesties.

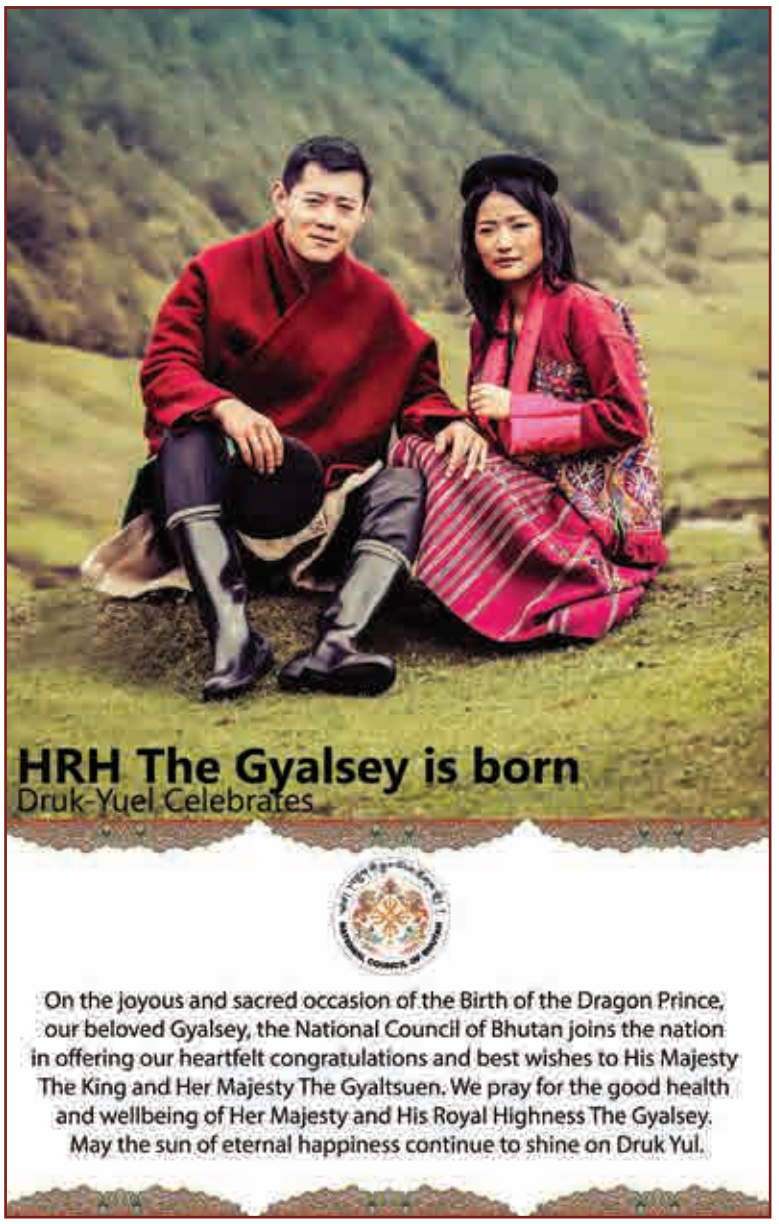
TASHI DELEK!

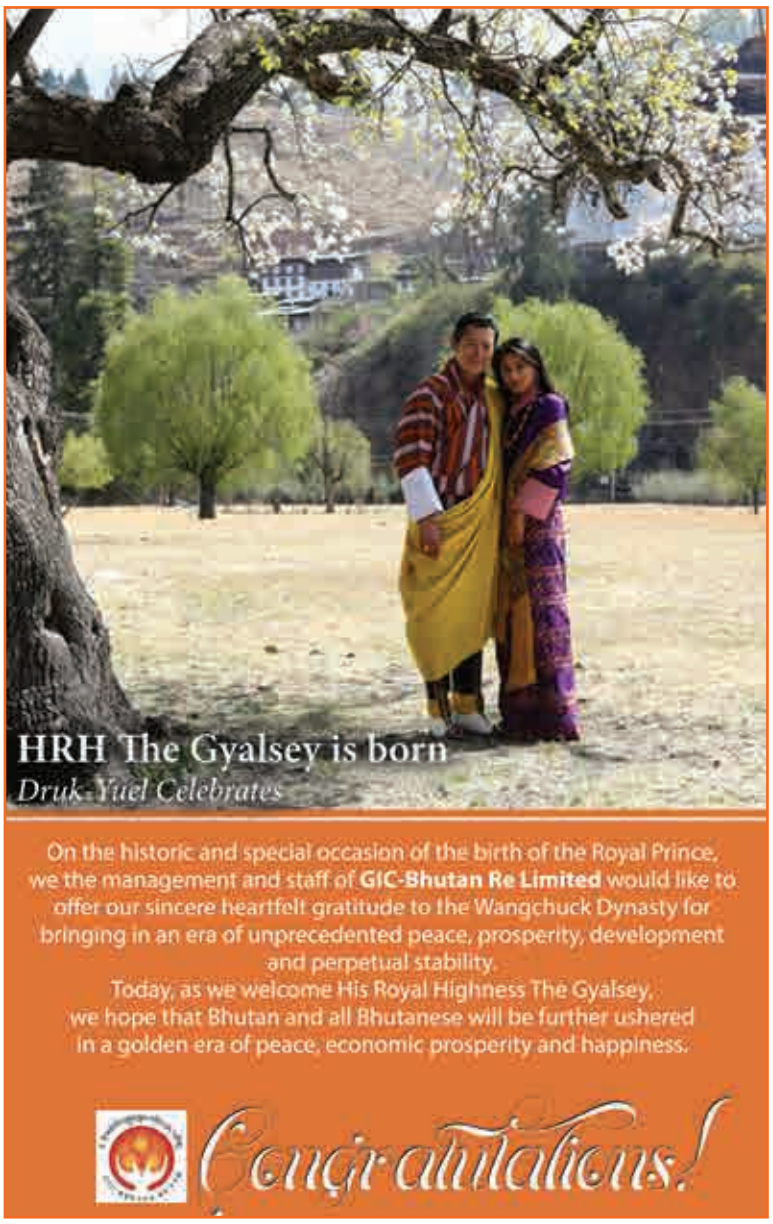


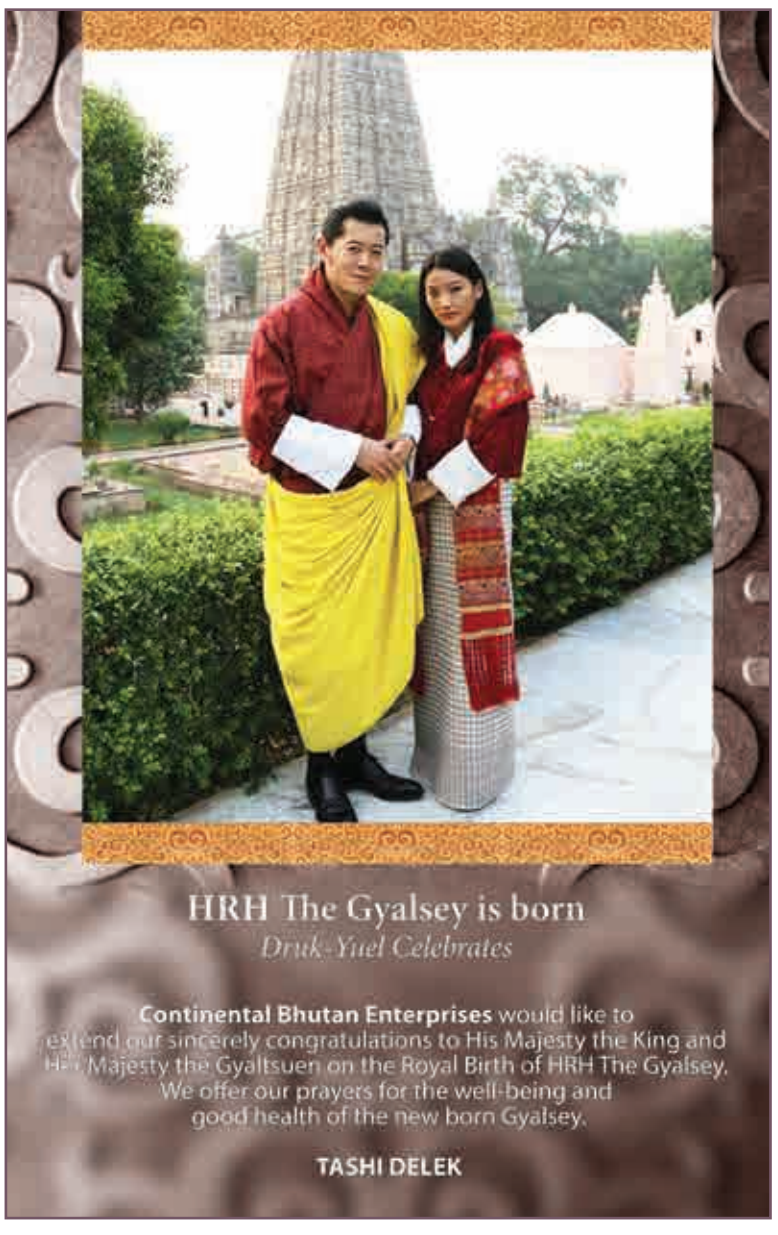
HRH The Gyalsey is born

Druk-Yuel Celebrates

We the management and staff of **BHUTAN BREWERY**
would like to extend our heartiest congratulations to His Majesty the King
and Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen on the birth of the Prince of Bhutan
while praying that the Prince may be a source of joy, laughter and
wisdom borne out of new-found parenthood to Their Majesties.


HRH The Gyalsey is born
Druk-Yuel Celebrates
On the joyous and sacred occasion of the Birth of the Dragon Prince, our beloved Gyalsey, the National Council of Bhutan joins the nation in offering our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen. We pray for the good health and wellbeing of Her Majesty and His Royal Highness The Gyalsey. May the sun of eternal happiness continue to shine on Druk Yul.


HRH The Gyalsey is born
Druk-Yuel Celebrates
On the historic and special occasion of the birth of the Royal Prince, we the management and staff of GIC-Bhutan Re Limited would like to offer our sincere heartfelt gratitude to the Wangchuck Dynasty for bringing in an era of unprecedented peace, prosperity, development and perpetual stability.
Today, as we welcome His Royal Highness The Gyalsey, we hope that Bhutan and all Bhutanese will be further ushered in a golden era of peace, economic prosperity and happiness.
Congratulations!


HRH The Gyalsey is born
Druk-Yuel Celebrates
Continental Bhutan Enterprises would like to extend our sincerely congratulations to His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen on the Royal Birth of HRH The Gyalsey. We offer our prayers for the well-being and good health of the new born Gyalsey.
TASHI DELEK


HRH The Gyalsey is born
Druk-Yuel Celebrates
Congratulations!
On this great day for our country, a great day for the Wangchuck Dynasty, a great day for His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen, we Bhutan Discovery Tours & Bhutan Motorbikes Tours would like to humbly wish Their Majesties and His Royal Highness the Gyalsey every happiness for the future. We wish Their Majesties a great future together!



Mercury Bhutan Tours & Travel
Authentic Experience

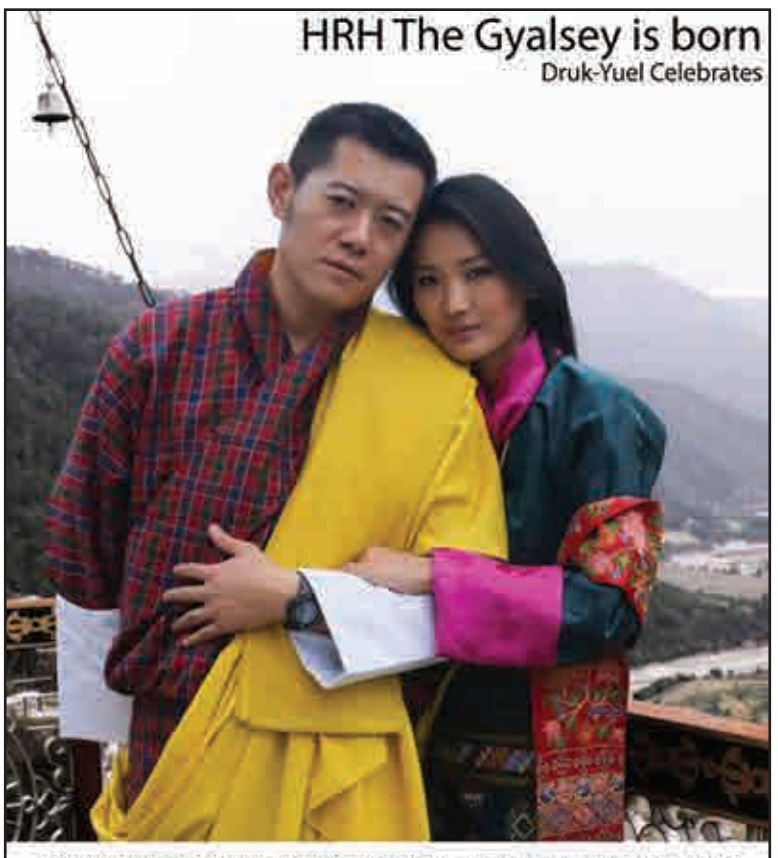
HRH The Gyalsey is born
Druk-Yuel Celebrates

MERCURY BHUTAN TOURS & TRAVEL
humbly offer our heartfelt greetings of Happiness and well-being to Their Majesties, on the birth of the Gyalsey.
We pray that this auspicious occasion brings continued happiness in the history of Druk Yul and it's people.



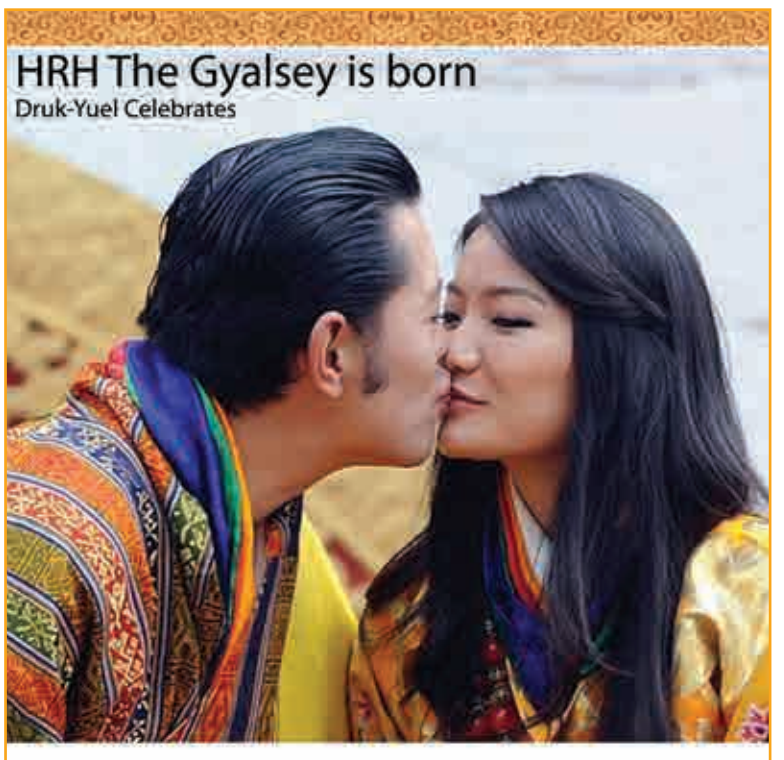
We the family of **Norbu Bhutan Travels** join the nation in paying our humble tribute and felicitations on the momentous occasion of the birth of the Royal Prince. May the nation see brighter days ahead.
May prosperity know no heights of excellence. May the unparalleled leadership flourish around the world. May the Tsa-Wa-Sum be forever blessed.

Norbu Bhutan Travel Pvt. Ltd. , 3rd Floor, 8 Gongzin Lam, P.O. Box: 1213 ; Thimphu. Kingdom of Bhutan
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Along with high prayers and good wishes, as the nation welcomes the Royal Prince to the world, we the managemant and staff of
Yarab Institute for Hospitality Management
would also like to attest the boundless afterglow that has and is to remain in our hearts for all times to come.
We offer our prayers for continued peace, progress and prosperity in the country.

Trashi Delek!



WANGCHUK
GROUP OF COMPANIES PRIVATE LIMITED

The Royal Prince has descended on the earth today, so let us all rejoice as the mountains sing with joy, the lakes in songs of gladness, and people in unison and great euphoria. We pray and hope that Your Royal Highness will lead and guide our lives. May Your Royal Highness bring all Bhutanese closer and unite us in spirit for eternity just like today.



HRH The Gyalsey is born
Druk-Yuel Celebrates

We the family of Taj Tashi humbly offer our heartiest congratulations to His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen on the occasion of the birth of another great soul on this earth.
We thank Their Majesties for letting us be a part of this celebration.
We wish and pray that the times to come ahead always perfect and happy be.

Congratulations!

Taj Tashi Bhutan TAJ GROUP

Post Box No. 524, Samten Lam, Chubachu, Thimphu, Kingdom of Bhutan, Tel: (975 - 2) 33 66 99, Fax: (975 - 2) 33 66 77



TashiCell

www.tashi[illegible].com

On this auspicious and joyous ocassion, the Management and Staff of Tashi InfoComm Limited joins the nation to offer our heartfelt wishes to Thier Majesties on the Birth of the Prince.

We pray for the Crown Prince benevolence and grace that would inspire and empower the Nation. May the Crown Prince have the blessing of the triple gem and posses the unique qualities of the Wangchuck Dynasty.

We pray that this Celebration of this joyous ocassion inspire continued peace, prosperity and progress in our Country, for all times to come.

Octogenarian who lived to see the Wangchuck Dynasty flourish

Chencho Dema

Tara Giri, 80, originally from Samtse but now moved to Thimphu is among those few who have been fortunate to witness the Monarchs of the Wangchuck Dynasty, starting from the second Druk Gyalpo His Majesty Jigme Wangchuck.

He harbors fond memories of his school days in Kumudini Homes in Kalimpong back in 1950s where he saw the Second King in Bhutan House where His Majesty the Second King quite often visited. Bhutan House was then the seat of Raja Tobgay, father of the late Dasho Rinpoche.

Tara Giri said, "Every Sunday, along with my friends I would quickly dress up well and rush to Bhutan House just to see His Majesty the Second King and also to eat momos, the second main attraction of Bhutan House."

"Though I never got the opportunity to personally meet the King, I saw him from a distance. I just saw him thrice in my life - twice in Bhutan House and once in Gelephu when I was working as a forester," he said.

Those days Gelephu was known as Hatti Sahar, land of elephants and jungles and His Majesty used to come there and stay in a two storeyed wooden guest house.

He described His Majesty the late King as a smart man with a good build and handsome.

With the Third King His Majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, he got a chance to shake hands as he too visited Gelephu frequently.

"The Third King was a very open-natured man who dressed up smartly. He used to walk like a military officer. For me he was a world class leader because he brought about modern development in our country," he said.

After that, Tara Giri met His Majesty the Fourth King in Gelephu when he was a prince and after he was crowned as the Fourth King.

He described the fourth Druk Gyalpo as a reserved man with a commanding voice who was also "inspiring, good looking and smart".

Back in 2008, Tara Giri witnessed the coronation of the Fifth Druk Gyalpo as well.

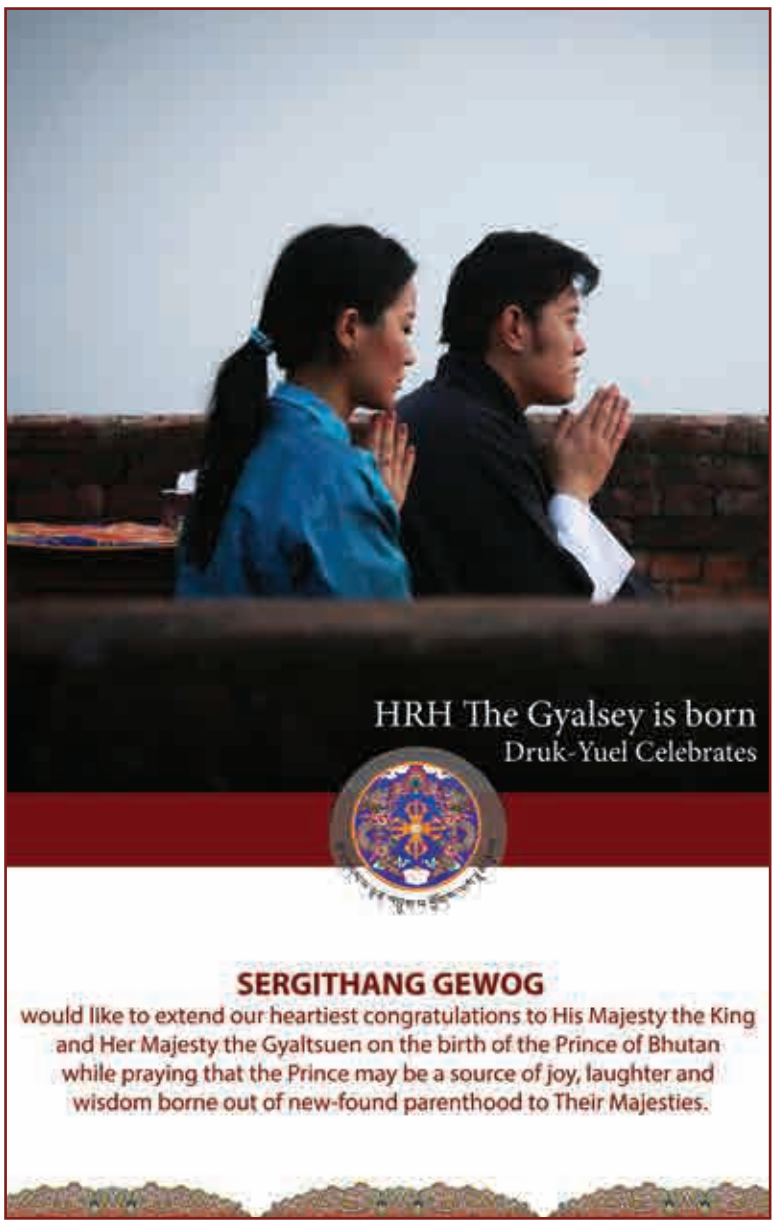


"His Majesty is truly a People's King. It is a big thing when a King is concerned about his people," he said.

For the octogenarian, now only one dream remains: to see The Gyalsey. "I am overwhelmed to hear the news of the Royal Birth."

Tara Giri started his career as a forester and rose to the rank of Managing Director of Bhutan Logging Corporation (BLC) now Natural resources Development Corporation Limited (NRDCL).

He resigned in 1996. He has two sons and a daughter.







Nidup Zangmo and Ganga Ram with their Daughter



Dhanu Kumari Chhetri and Biresh Parajuli with their Daughter

'The happiest moment of our lives'

Their Majesties granted soelra to all children born in the country on the auspicious day of the Royal Birth of The Gyalsey.

Lucky Wangmo

Holding her beautiful daughter who is just two days old at the maternity ward at Thimphu National Referral Hospital, 19-year-old Nidup Zangmo considers herself fortunate to have given birth to her first child on the same day His Royal Highness The Gyalsey was born.

Shy but exuberant, Nidup Zangmo says it was a total surprise to learn that her daughter will be sharing the same birthday with The Gyalsey. "I could not have imagined a better day to give birth to my daughter," she adds.

Her husband, Ganga Ram, 27, is equally delighted. "We have been receiving calls from friends and relatives congratulating us. We are very lucky," he says.

Nidup Zangmo and Ganga Ram are among 29 parents across the country who gave birth to a child on the auspicious day of the birth of The Gyalsey.

Their Majesties granted *soelra* to all children born in the country on the auspicious day of the Royal Birth.

"The gift from His Majesty the King is very special and we will treasure this moment forever," says Ganga Ram.

In the same room, Beda Maya Parajuli is resting on the bed, with her new born daughter by her side. Though she was too tired to talk, her husband Biresh Parajuli, 35, was more than happy to share his thoughts on his daughter sharing the same birthday with The Gyalsey.

"It is the happiest moment in our lives and we couldn't have asked for anything more," he says.

"We wish and pray for the sound health of The Gyalsey."

Dhanu Kumari Chhetri, 26, another mother in another room at the maternity ward, also gave birth to a daughter on the same day. Despite having undergone a caesarian, she was up and walking happily across the corridors. "My daughter will be celebrating her birthday with The Gyalsey," she exclaimed, "my daughter has given me the world's happiness and it's a dream come true to receive gifts from His Majesty."

Her husband, Chandra Bdr. Chhetri, offered his prayers and wishes to Their Majesties. "We are all waiting to see a glimpse of The Gyalsey," he adds.

Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital recorded 13 deliveries on 5 February, of which seven were females.

Tendrel Initiative brings the nation together to celebrate Royal birth

As part of the initiative, 108,000 trees will be planted and an exotic album launched

Dechen Dolkar

As part of the Tendrel initiatives, 108,000 Sokshing (Tree of Life) will be planted across the country during the first week of March to invoke, among others the blessings of health and longevity of the His Royal Highness The Gyalsey.

Bhutan welcomed the birth of The Gyalsey on 5 February 2016, coinciding with the Fire Male Monkey Year.

The Royal Birth is deemed extraordinary as it coincides with the birth year of Ugyen Guru Rinpoche and the 400th anniversary of Zhabdrung's arrival from Tibet to Bhutan. It portends immense good fortune for the people and Kingdom of Bhutan.

"Plantation will consist of three categories one by every household in Bhutan, the second in the form of one plantation per dzongkhag, the third by interested groups," said the Chief Coordinator of the Tendrel initiatives and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Institute of Management Studies (IMS), Tenzin Lekphell.

He mentioned of the total, approximately 70,000 will be planted at the household level and 35,813 in plantations.

Meanwhile, 108 saplings will be planted by six project Dantak premises and Watsa bypass and another 108 saplings will be planted by six hydropower plants at Punatsangchhu, Chukha, Kurichu, Dagachu, Jigmeling and Tangsibji.

Tenzin Lekphell also said that 108 saplings will be planted by IMTRAT at its headquarters in Haa, 108 saplings by Sri Lankan Youth Climate Action Network in Thimphu, three saplings at each gewog centre and three saplings at every Dzong premise.

The planting in Thimphu will be the focal point with 5,000 saplings to be planted by 5,000 Thimphu residents at Kuenselphodrang. The participants in Thimphu will include the members of the Royal family, government ministers, clergy, security forces, senior citizens, NGOs, private and corporate sector, thus representing the entire Bhutanese society.

He also mentioned that again, a separate 12,000 saplings will be planted by tourists throughout the year in Thimphu.

"The planting will be done simultaneously nationwide involving 108,000 people and the planting will be preceded by a 10-minute Thugmoen (prayer) by His Highness the Je Khenpo who will be at the site of one of the plantations," he said.

To celebrate the birth, and also simultaneously to observe the two other events, a non-profit project titled Tendrel has been launched under the aegis of an advisory board composed of eminent people from the Bhutanese society as members.

The project is carrying out three core initiatives: the creation of Tendrel emblem (symbolism), galvanizing the nation through awareness, publicity and mass public participation, producing a unique Tendrel album containing prayers and wishes of the people for the newborn Prince and plantation of trees nationwide.

The mission of the Druk Tendroel Lu Nga-Nye, according to Tenzin Lekphell is to bring together the people so that the nation as a whole can welcome the blessed opportunity to welcome The Gyalsey with prayers and acts of deep symbolism in keeping with the country's sacred tradition while also paying obeisance to the Zhabdrung and Ugyen Guru Rinpoche.

Tenzin Lekphell said, "The objectives of the Tendrel are to add value, meaning and symbolism to the act of welcoming our Prince."

Other activities initiated by the Tendrel Initiative include recitation of the 108-volume *Kajur* (Commandments of the Buddha) at Semtokha Dzong and lighting of 1,000 butter lamps in Bhutan's most sacred monasteries and Nyes along with a few places of historical importance immediately after the Royal Birth.

"Tendrel albums containing wishes and prayers from Lams and Rinpoches, children, people and organizations to His Majesty The King and Queen will be submiied tentatively on 21 February which has the added significance of being the birthday of His Majesty," said Tenzin Lekphell.

The Tendrel albums will be displayed to the public and kept in the National Museum and the Museum of Kings on 6 March.

Tenzin Lekphell said on 6 February, after the announcement of the Royal birth, Tendrel Initiatives went on a massive drive to create awareness and build excitement among the people. He said about 270 people, mostly young graduates, are working with the Tendrel Initiatives. Lyonpo Sonam Tobgye, former Chief Justice of Bhutan, is the president of the Tendrel initiatives.



Tashi Delek!

ON THIS MOMENTOUS AND HISTORIC OCCASION, THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF

PHAMA TRADING & MANUFACTURING

JOIN THE NATION IN CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE GYALSEY. WE HUMBLY PRAY FOR THE GYALSEY'S LONG LIFE, GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS.

WE OFFER OUR HEARTFELT GREETINGS TO THEIR MAJESTIES.

PHAMA